

## New or Enhanced Program Award in 2015 Awards

A thriving recycling system in Michigan starts with access to recycling programs at a community level. This award highlights new or enhanced recycling programs that have made noteworthy strides in recycling access in Michigan communities in 2015.

### New Program in 2015 Category

#### Hastings Charter Township



Hastings Charter Township is recognized for the implementation of a new recycling drop-off, using a unique solar powered recycling module designed to receive source separated materials. Working with Grand Valley State University engineering students, the unit was designed to maximize utilization and cost-effectiveness in rural areas, while minimizing the potential for illegal dumping activities with video monitoring. The Hastings Charter Township Project Team plans to track data and document implementation activities so a case study report can be developed for use by other communities. Data to be tracked includes quantitative parameters such as material volumes, number and demographics of users, costs and revenues, as well as qualitative parameters such as operational challenges and solutions, community impact and media coverage. This project represents expanded access and will document best practices that can be replicated in other rural areas. Hastings Charter Township is therefore chosen to receive the Excellence in Recycling New Program Award.



## Enhanced Program in 2015 Category

### Calhoun County



Calhoun County is recognized for partnership with the City of Albion to expand drop-off recycling access to county residents. On February 11, 2015, the new Albion Recycling Center was opened. This is the first staffed recycling center in Calhoun County and greatly increases access for residents on the east side of the county. Prior to 2015, the center only offered recycling to residents of Albion, approximately 8,000 people. A five-year agreement between Calhoun County and the City of Albion opened the center to the entire county population of more than 134,000 people. This unique center allows residents to stay in their cars while staff and numerous volunteers unload the recyclable items. The interaction provides the opportunity for staff to offer educational information and inform residents of upcoming events. The center also provides the first opportunity to recycle vinyl siding and offers access to recycle batteries and expanded polystyrene. This project represents an extraordinary increase for residential recycling access and is chosen to receive the Excellence in Recycling Enhanced Program Award for service to a rural area.



## The City of Plymouth



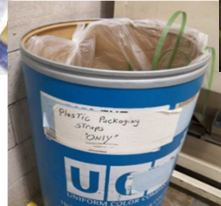
The City of Plymouth in Wayne County is recognized for significantly enhancing their Curbside Collection Recycling Program by switching from manually collected 18-gallon bins to an automated system using 64-gallon carts. This cart-based program was rolled out in January of 2015, increasing collection capacity citywide. It is well known that the transition from bins to carts has proven to significantly increase collected volumes when coupled with a strong education campaign. The DEQ supports cart-based curbside recycling programs and has therefore chosen the City of Plymouth to receive the Excellence in Recycling Enhanced Program Award in an urban area.



## US Farathane Port Huron



RECYCLE ME



US Farathane Port Huron is recognized for an Enhanced Business Recycling Program. During April 2015, in conjunction with Earth Day, daily activities were implemented to heighten employee recycling awareness. In November of 2015, US Farathane signed up with America Recycles and engaged employees in activities promoting the importance of recycling at work and at home. US Farathane helps to provide recycling access by offering their 308 employees the opportunity to bring recyclable materials from home. The 2015 workplace programs encouraged awareness and participation by involving all employees and by rewarding those who engaged in the daily activities such as recycling word searches and puzzles. For providing both increased awareness and recycling access, US Farathane is chosen to receive the Excellence in Recycling Enhanced Program Award in a business.

